

# The Victorian Naturalist.

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## FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 13th September, 1915.

The president, Dr. C. S. Sutton, occupied the chair, and about forty members and visitors were present.

### REPORTS.

A brief report of the excursion to Mitcham on Saturday, 14th August, was made by the leader, Mr. G. Coghill, who said that about twenty members and visitors attended the outing. The course taken was along the Quarry-road to the Mullum Mullum or Deep Creek, and thence *via* Park-road to the starting-point. The wattle bloom, to view which was the main object of the trip, was not so fine as was expected, and only about thirty species of wild-flowers were collected, none being of any especial note.

Dr. C. S. Sutton reported that, despite the unfavourable nature of the afternoon, thirty-eight members and friends journeyed by motor-bus to Warrandyte on Saturday, 28th August. The object of the trip was to view the Silver Wattles growing on the banks of the Yarra. The trees, when in full bloom (as the party confidently expected to find them), are a beautiful sight, but unfortunately only one tree seemed to have bloomed well this season, and that was past its highest stage of perfection. However, the fruit-trees in the numerous orchards along the route afforded some solace by a lavish display of blossom. On the outward journey a stop of short duration was made to afford the party an opportunity of collecting *Acacia acinacea* and other flowers on the roadside and in the adjacent paddocks. After tea the return journey was begun, and the city reached shortly after 7 p.m.

The leader, Mr. J. W. Audas, F.L.S., reported that the excursion to Springvale on Saturday, 11th September, was well attended, the party numbering forty-six, including several students from the Training College. The weather was all that could be desired, being delightfully fine and cool. Soon after leaving Oakleigh some of the earliest of our wild-flowers were observed growing in the railway enclosure, the more noticeable being *Anguillaria (Wurmbea) dioica*, *Hypoxis glabella*, and *Chamaecilla corymbosa*. On leaving the station the party followed the railway line, in the direction of Clayton, for a short distance. Here many plants were noticed in flower, the

most prominent being *Dillwynia cinerascens*, *Hibbertia stricta*, *Bossiaea cinerea*, and *Platylobium obtusangulum*. Growing abundantly near the edges of swampy ground, fine tall specimens of *Craspedia Richea* and *Brachycome cardiocarpa*, Swamp Daisy, were noticed, forming an attractive combination of yellow and white. In very moist or half-submerged places the flowering stems of *Villarsia reniformis*, Yellow Marsh-flower, were observed just coming into bloom. Several naturalized aliens were seen, including the Vetch, or Tare, *Vicia sativa*, Stagger-Weed, *Stachys arvensis*, Corn-Spurry, *Spergula arvensis*, and Fumitory, *Fumaria officinalis*. These were growing adjacent to the railway line, and had probably germinated from seed dropped from fodder during transit. Leaving the railway enclosure, we proceeded in a southerly direction, passing *en route* a hedge of *Acacia armata*, well out in flower, and further on we viewed a plantation of *Boronia megastigma*, which thrives well in this district, and is cultivated extensively for market purposes. We also noticed a fine clump of Black Sheoke, *Casuarina suberosa*, evidently reserved for shelter purposes. As we wended our way through the heath country quite a large number of wild flowers were found in bloom, fully fifty species being noted. Of these the following might be mentioned:—*Aotus villosa*, *Pullenæa Gunnii*, *Ricinocarpus pinifolius*, *Pimelea phylloides*, *Daviesia ulicina*, *Stackhousia spathulata*, *Tetratheca ciliata*, and *Acacia oxycedrus*, the most prominent and prevailing species encountered being *Hibbertia fasciculata* (yellow) and *Leucopogon (Styphelia) virgatus* (white). The Sundews, *Drosera Whittakeri* and *D. glanduligera*, were very abundant, and in places could be counted by the hundred, while the Swamp Club-Moss, *Selaginella uliginosa*, was very plentiful. It was noticed that where the ground had been cleared of scrub the heath and other small plants grew more luxuriantly. Four species of orchids were found in flower—namely, *Diuris longifolia*, *D. sulphurea*, *Glossodia major*, and *Pterostylis nutans*, the latter being the most plentiful. It was noticed with regret that the fine collecting ground to the south of Springvale railway station, though fourteen miles from the metropolis, was being rapidly enclosed for cultivation; consequently, lovers of wild-flowers will soon have to go further afield.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS.

The president, Dr. C. S. Sutton, said members were already aware that the Club purposed holding a wild-flower show in the Athenæum Hall on the afternoon and evening of 28th inst., and presenting the profit arising from a charge of 1s. for admission to the Sick and Wounded Soldiers' Fund. The object was a laudable one, and, he felt assured, would command a willing and whole-hearted response from all.